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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 16869S-032100US  
Client Ref. No.: E6171-01 EV

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On 4/15/04

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: [Signature]

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Hidetoshi Nishiyama, et al.

Application No.: 09/931,997

Filed: August 17, 2001

For: METHOD AND ITS APPARATUS  
FOR INSPECTING PARTICLES OR  
DEFECTS OF A SEMICONDUCTOR  
DEVICE

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 4181

Examiner: Kevin K. Pyo

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2878

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 21, 2003, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.